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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Permits Required to Purchase Shaving Cream, Toothbrushes, Dental Cream and Shaving Brushes/Prices of Items/Soap Produced in Homes

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Permits Required to Buy Certain Items

1. "In April 1953

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25X1 a special permit was required to buy shaving cream, toothbrushes, dental cream and shaving brushes.

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Prices for Various Items

3.

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1.40 levs for shaving cream, 0.20 for the stone which was in the form of a pencil, toothpaste cost 1.80 levs, a razor blade 0.20 levs. The latter one could buy without any permit. They were of 'zvezda' quality and [redacted] shave with them just once. In private shops there were some which were slightly better for 0.25 levs, and one could use them twice.

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Soap Produced in Homes

4. "There was no special toilet soap on the market. Ordinary soap was available (laundry soap) and amounted to 0.80 levs for 250 grams. It was a very bad quality soap. During World War II people generally manufactured soap themselves. Generally people kept buying 'krustik' soda. Until 1951 one could buy it only after showing a document indicating the delivery to the state of the required quota of fat. After that date soda was sold without any difficulties. The only limitation was on quantity. One could buy no more than two to three kgs. of soda per family. Shopkeepers had to keep a strict control of that and also the amount of soap each family purchased".

- End -

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